

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 629
By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ralph Hastings of
Fayetteville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ralph Hastings; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Hastings was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hastings served with acumen and alacrity as an educator and superintendent, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Hastings served with valor in the U.S. Army during World War II as one of the great Americans who earned the rightful designation as the "greatest generation"; and

WHEREAS, graduating from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Ralph Hastings began his teaching career at Blanche High School in 1952; he later obtained his Master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University and received an Honorary American Farmer Degree from the Future Farmers of America; and

WHEREAS, teaching vocational agriculture, Mr. Hastings moved to Central High School in Fayetteville in 1956; and

WHEREAS, elected Superintendent of Fayetteville schools in 1976, Mr. Hastings supervised the consolidation of the county high schools when Lincoln County High School was established in 1979; he retired in 1980 after many years of tireless work and service; and

WHEREAS, a committed public servant, Ralph Hastings served as President of the Vocational Agriculture Teachers of Tennessee, Director of the Lincoln County Farm Bureau,

Chairman of the Lincoln County Soil Conservation Service, a member of the Board of Directors of Fayetteville/Lincoln County Library, member of the Board of Directors of the Fayetteville/Lincoln County Museum, Advisor for the Young Farmers and Ranchers, and Commander of American Legion Post 42; and

WHEREAS, living his life according to his motto, "No greater calling exists than service to your fellow man," Mr. Hastings was responsible for naming the Lincoln County Veterans Bridge on Highway 231/241 North and the historical markers for Lincoln County Poor Farm and the Cross and Rock; and

WHEREAS, the old Lincoln County Office Building on East Davidson Drive underwent substantial renovation and was dedicated as the Ralph Hastings building in recognition of his undying commitment to community service; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Hastings was an active and devout member of the First United Methodist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a Bible class teacher; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Hastings was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hastings was preceded in death by his first wife, Ann Moore Hastings and his son, Thomas Edwin Maddox; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Hastings is survived by his second wife, Janice Payne Hastings; sons and daughters-in-law, Joel Moore and Debbie Hastings, Robert Payne and Jenny Maddox, Louis Lee and Lissie Maddox, and Stephen Archer Maddox; six grandchildren, Thomas and Grace Hastings, Adam and Will Maddox, and Branham and Louis Maddox; and

WHEREAS, Ralph Hastings leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ralph Hastings, reflecting fondly upon his

impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Hastings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.